

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 1, 2006 has been received and carefully studied. In addition, the applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his time during the telephonic interview on August 17, 2006.

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 4 and 7 and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Collins (U.S. Patent No. 5,785,608). The Examiner refers to Figure 8 as support for this rejection. While applicant respectfully disagrees with this basis for rejection, in response, the applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate limitations that distinguish the present invention from Collin. In Collins, the specification describing Figure 8 states that the golf club "is positioned between the forward arm of the user and the user's ribs". Column 5, lines 42-44. In contrast, all of the figures (Figures 1, 2 and 3) of the present application clearly show that the golf club is not positioned between the arm and the user's ribs. Based on the telephone interview, the Examiner stated that he believed that it was possible to hold the golf club as recited in claim 1 and still touch the rib cage. By introducing the limitation that the club is not positioned between the arm and the rib cage, it is now clear that the golf club of the present invention is not intended to be positioned in the way suggested in Figure 8 by Collins.

The Examiner rejects claims 3,5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Collins in view of other references. Due to the amendment to claim 1, it is believed that these combinations of references do not recite all of the limitations present in claim 1, namely that the golf club is not positioned between the rib cage and the arm.

The Examiner rejects claims 13, 14, 16, 19 and 22-29

under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Collins. The Examiner states that Collins describes Figure 8 at column 5, lines 34-50. The Examiner states that although Collins does not explicitly describe the shaft remaining in the armpit area during the putting stroke, it would have been obvious to do so for a consistent, continuous stroke. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicant maintains that Collins does not explicitly state that the shaft remains in the armpit area, and in fact all figures show exactly the opposite. As stated above, Collins clearly states that the golf club is between the user's arm and ribs. Figure 8 also shows the club is between the arm and the ribs, with the arm bent at the elbow. While the applicant disagrees with this basis for rejection, claim 13 has been amended to clearly state that the golf club is not positioned between the user's arm and rib cage. As stated above, all of the figures in the present application clearly support this.

The Examiner also rejects claims 15, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Collins in view of additional references.

Because claim 13 has been amended, it is believed that all claims dependent on claim 13 are also in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejects claims 30 and 32-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shioda. The Examiner states that Shioda discloses the grip style recited in these claims. However, the Examiner also concedes that Shioda "fails to definitely show whether the club travels along the life line of the palm". Despite this, the Examiner claims, without support, that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to hold the club in this

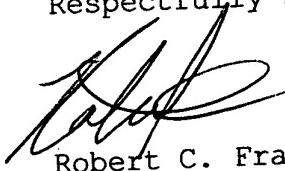
position. The applicant believes that the Examiner has not met the legal requirement for obviousness. The reference cited does not teach each and every element of the claim. Further, the Examiner has failed to show a suggestion or motivation in the prior art to adapt the grip of Shiода. It is believed that a subjective statement that one of ordinary skilled would choose the position that "would be most comfortable for the user" does not fulfill this requirement.

The functional differences between these variations in grip are of critical importance to Applicant's invention. As taught by Applicant, having the club enter the target side hand from the top of the palm, travel along the life line and exit between the second and third finger causes the back of the target side hand to more readily align perpendicular to the target line, allowing the golfer to direct the club along the target line by pulling with the back of the target side hand. This method also reduces involvement of the other hand, and can reduce variation in wrist angle. Shioda relies on mechanical means (the shape of the putter grip and the interaction of the hand therewith) for promoting alignment of the club along the target line; is conventional in its approach to wrist angle, and does nothing to reduce the involvement of the other hand in the swing.

Since Shioda does not disclose that the club travels along the life line and therefore between the thumb pad and the pinkie pad, it cannot anticipate the present invention. Furthermore, since there is no motivation or suggestion in the prior art to modify the grip of Shioda, there cannot be a proper obviousness rejection. Claims 32-34 are believed in condition for allowance due to the dependence on independent claim 30.

The remaining prior art is believed to have been
properly not relied upon in rejecting any claim.
Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully
requested in view of the foregoing.

Respectfully submitted,



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